

# PLASTERDOWN GROUPED PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Council Meeting of **PLASTERDOWN PARISH COUNCIL** held in **Sampford Spiney Church**  
On **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025** at **7.30 pm**

**Present:** Cllr. J. Sturmer, Chair of the Council, Cllr. E. Cole, Cllr. A. Davies and Cllr. R. Philips.

**In Attendance:** Caroline Metcalf (Clerk)

## **53/25. Apologies for absence**

Cllr. R. Pearson-Bunt and Cllr. I. Walton sent their apologies. Accepted by the Council.

## **54/25. Declaration of Interest**

None.

## **55/25. Public Question Time**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

## **56/25. Receive updates from the Borough and County Councillors**

Both Councillors were not present at the meeting.

## **57/25. Approval of minutes of the Council meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

All agreed to approve the minutes.

## **58/25. Previous matters arising from the minutes not listed as separate items on this agenda:**

- Boundary Stones/Ward Bridge

Cllr. Sturmer has visited the tree which a resident said had been planted many years ago as a boundary marker. It is located on East Crowndale Farm, where the boundary extends to the River Tavy and a plaque on the tree states that it was donated by the Lions Club of Tavistock as part of their Millennium Boundary Project.

The landowner, Mr Nick Holt-Martin, has confirmed that he is happy for the Council to place a boundary stone in a field near the River Tavy. Cllr. Davies will ask Cllr. Ware whether she has been able to speak with the other landowner, Mr Anthony Sarrant regarding the Council's proposed location of the secondary boundary stone where the boundary leaves Jordan's Lane and crosses his land.

Ward Bridge – It was agreed to defer this item to the October meeting for further discussion with Cllr. Fife Cook, when it is hoped he will be able to attend.

- Devon Highways Update

The fingerpost sign remains facing the wrong way and, despite being reported multiple times, no action has yet been taken. The Clerk was asked to follow this up again. A query was also raised as to whether the Council could undertake the rectification itself.

- Tiny Wilds School

Cllr. Renders had sent his apologies. He advised that the matter is under Enforcement, which restricts the information he can share, but confirmed that it remains an ongoing case. The Clerk had asked Cllr. Renders, what is the length of time that something can be under enforcement? As in the meantime, while it is under enforcement, the business continues to grow?'. No reply received. The Clerk to chase up.

- Update on adoption of BT phone boxes – Merrivale & Sampford Spiney

Sampford Spiney – Cllr. Sturmer has signed the agreement with BT for the purchase of the phone box in Sampford Spiney. Clerk to send to BT.

Merrivale – AS the box is situated on Duchy of Cornwall land, the Clerk is in contact with them and the Duchy is in

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the process of preparing the licence paperwork to forward to the Clerk.

Once the Council owns both phone boxes, the next phase will be discussing their future community use.

- Discuss repairs to Warren Cross tree guard

Cllr. Philips reported that at the recent Whitchurch Down meeting, he and Cllr. Sturmer raised the matter of the repairs required. Although it was confirmed that the responsibility for the repairs did not rest with Tavistock Town Council, they agreed to carry out the work, and it was completed within the week. The Council expressed its thanks for this.

## **59/25. Receive updates from meetings attended by Councillors**

Cllr. Philips updated members on other points raised at the recent Whitchurch Down Group meeting, including that the Management Plan for Whitchurch Down for 2025–2030 is nearly completed. It will then be sent to Tavistock Town Council for adoption and then circulated.

Cllr. Sturmer reported that the Whitchurch Community Hall Trustees had approved the storage of the tables and chairs from the Whitchurch Inn, in the hall for a live function in the Inn.

Cllr. Sturmer updated members that the lock on the Brook noticeboard had been removed and replaced without the Council's knowledge or consent. Members discussed that the noticeboard is the property of the Council, is for community use, and that notices contained within it should not be removed, as they are legal documents. However, during a recent meeting between a local resident and Cllr. Sturmer, the resident disputed this, claiming ownership of the noticeboard, as it is situated on their land. The Clerk has contacted Devon Highways, who confirmed that the land is part of the public highway.

Cllr. Sturmer has fitted a new lock on the noticeboard, along with a note advising that anyone wishing to claim the lock and the book previously stored within the noticeboard should contact the Clerk. A sign has also been put in the board indicating that it is owned by the Council.

## **60/25. Receive nominations for representatives to Whitchurch Community Hall**

Cllr. Phillips nominated Cllrs. Walton and Sturmer to be the representatives. Seconded by Cllr. Davies. All in favour.

## **61/25. Discuss the request for improvements to the Grenofen bus shelter**

A local resident, via email, had again highlighted the need for an opening in the bus shelter so that people waiting inside, can see buses approaching. After discussion, it was agreed that creating a hole in the shelter would be unfeasible, as it could weaken the structure and, based on photographs provided by the Clerk, would likely not improve visibility. The option of placing a mirror on the opposite side of the road was also ruled out.

It was agreed that the Clerk would:

1. Contact Devon Highways to clarify who is responsible for cutting back the hedge alongside the road and the tree with overhanging branches that are being hit by double-decker buses.
2. Explore the possibility of installing a digital bus timetable at the shelter.

## **62/25. Planning application to consider**

Appeal Notification Letter - W/25/3371450

Site Address: Ashmill Farm, Grenofen, Tavistock, PL19 9EW

Description of development: Change of use of barn to dwelling

Application reference: 0472/24

An appeal had been submitted for the above application and following a declaration of interest, Cllr. Phillips left the room.

After discussion and having reviewed the letter outlining the reasons for the application refusal, it was agreed by all that there was no need for any further observation. Cllr. Phillips rejoined the meeting.

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## **63/25. To approve the Clerk's pay rise, including back pay effective from April 2025**

All agreed to approve the Clerk's pay rise and pay back.

## **64/25. Approve Invoices for payment.**

- Clerk's September salary – £198.20
- HMRC ending 5 September 2025 - £43.20

HMRC ending 5 October will be approved at the October meeting.

All approved payments.

## **65/25. Correspondence**

1. Email regarding the Dartmoor Marathan 2026:

"I am reaching out to you as the organiser of the Dartmoor Marathon which takes place on 12th April 2026. As the race will be going through your Parish, I felt I should contact you in anticipation that you will embrace the event with your support and encourage the community to be a part of the day. If you would like further information on the event, please feel free to get back to me and I will endeavour to answer any questions. It is my hope that it will be a great way to show off the beauty of the area and if you would like to be involved in any way, please register your interest.'

Noted by the Council.

1. Email from Cllr. Fife Cook, Devon County Councillor:

I thought you would all like to know that Devon County Council has backed the '20 is Plenty' motion, which is great news. However, as I had expected and had tried to fight against it, the cost has to be borne by the town or parishes councils that want to put this in place. Personally, I feel that this is such an important issue that we should have got our heads together to find a way to pay for this centrally, but in fairness, finances are extremely tight, and at least those councils that feel they can afford to go ahead with a 20mph speed limit within their towns or villages will now be able to do so (subject to certain considerations).

I am sorry that this means laying more burden at the feet of the town and parishes, you all have enough to carry, but you can at least now decide if you want this, and how you will be able fund it.

Information should trickle out soon about how this will all work.'

Noted by the Council.

## **66/25. Agenda items for the next meeting to be held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at Whitchurch Community Hall at 7:30 pm.**

1. Tiny Wilds School
2. Boundary Stones
3. Nominations for representatives of Whitchurch Community Hall.
4. Acquisition of a Council projector

The meeting closed at 8.39 pm.